

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

MEMO: Agenda Item #5
DATE: November 15, 2018
SUBJECT: Outcomes Update
PRESENTER: LSOHC Staff

Background:

Following the Sept 27, 2018 meeting, per Council request, staff to recirculate the July 2017 Phase I Outcomes report to the Council and placed the Outcomes topic on the November meeting agenda. On October 9, 2018, in coordination with LCC staff, LSOHC staff released an RFP for OHF Outcomes Analysis, Measurement, and Reporting.

RFP Respondents were encouraged to submit questions relating to the RFP by October 19. One question was received and was subsequently answered. Both the question and answer were posted online for public consumption.

We received two proposals by the November 9th due date. Staff is currently reviewing those proposals and will be scheduling interviews with those respondents in the coming weeks. Staff will have a recommendation for the Council at the December 11th, 2018 meeting.

History of Outcomes:

Results from OHF project accomplishments are recorded by project managers as “outputs”; acres protected in easement or fee, acres of prairie restored or enhanced, miles of stream restored, etc. “Outcomes” have been defined as what happens as a result of the work; how many additional nesting pairs of mallards can be expected, or pheasants, or monarch butterflies, what species of fish are now migrating upstream that were blocked from doing so prior to restoration of fish passage, etc.

The Phase I Outcomes Process and Report (July 2017), executed by the Environmental Initiative, engaged agency and NGO stakeholders to identify and develop recommended outcome metrics that supported the demonstration of public benefit and accountability for the use of OHF money. Those recommended outcome metrics resulted in “Outcomes, Indicators, and Potential Methods and Data Sources” for each of the primary outcome areas of Fish Habitat, Wildlife/Game Habitat and Outdoor Recreation, as well as the secondary outcome area of Benefits to People.

The Phase II Outcomes project was conceived as the next step of actual analysis, measurement, and reporting of baseline outcome results as provided by OHF habitat work accomplished to date. We acknowledge that the aggregation of outcomes will be limited by available methods of measuring and gathering data as it relates to on-the-ground habitat protection, restoration, and enhancement.

Ultimately, we anticipate Phase II will provide a realistic report of what outcomes can be measured now, what sources of measurement are available and usable now, what and where voids in data gathering and measurement are present. Hopefully, it will also show us how we can improve.

The Phase II Outcomes project will be a complex exercise of collaborating with our partners to pull and analyze data to define outcomes. It is aimed at providing quantifiable, predictable benefits as a result of OHF projects.